UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/534
11 May 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 May 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the acts of aggression perpetrated by United States and United Kingdom aircraft on 30 April 1999, which caused the deaths of six citizens and further loss to property. The Minister urges you to intervene in order to halt these acts of aggression, which are in complete violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 9 May 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to draw your attention to the fact that United States and United Kingdom aircraft have continued to carry out acts of aggression against the people and Republic of Iraq, on the pretext of enforcing the so-called no-fly zones. These zones have been categorically repudiated by Iraq because they have no legal basis. On 30 April 1999, the aforementioned aircraft perpetrated a further crime against the security and sovereignty of Iraq, dropping five 500-pound NK bombs on Mr. Jirjis Ayyub Sultan and five members of his family as they were tending their sheep in one of the villages in the northern Governorate of Nineveh. The savage bombardment killed the six citizens, mutilating their bodies almost beyond recognition. More than 100 sheep were killed in this brutal attack, and a car and trailer belonging to Mr. Sultan were consumed by fire.

There are no military targets in the region in which this crime was committed, which means that the bombardment was designed primarily to injure and terrorize civilians. These grave acts of aggression, carried out by two permanent members of the Security Council, constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of an independent State and founder Member of the United Nations, and a disgraceful breach of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

While condemning these acts of aggression, which are in complete violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, Iraq requests you to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom, with a view to halting such acts of aggression and ensuring that they are not repeated. Such acts represent an established policy, pursued by the two aforementioned States in order to achieve their political goals of undermining the sovereignty and independence of Iraq and injuring its people.

In the view of my Government, all States that send their aircraft to carry out these acts of aggression, or which permit such aircraft to take off from their territory, are equally responsible for such acts, and for the material damage and human losses that the Iraqi people continue to sustain. Furthermore, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, Iraq affirms its legally established right to demand compensation for the damage that has resulted from these acts of aggression, which are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the provisions of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq